

March 12, 2009

Springfield, Illinois

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The ninth meeting of the Interpreter Licensure Board was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 and Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Office, 1630 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m. on March 11, 2009.

Members Present:

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel
Somone Bowman
Becki Combs

Dana Craig
Teri Hedding
Karen Janssen

Janet Lambert

Members Absent:

Paul Menkis

Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman, CSC

Marilyn Corlett, CSC

Public:

None.

IDHHC Staff Present:

Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel

II. Approval of Minutes

Dana Craig moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Becki Combs seconded. All in favor: Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Dana Craig, Teri Hedding and Karen Janssen; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

III. 2009 Election

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Acting Chair, recognized Janet Lambert to proceed over the 2009 election of officers.

For the position of Secretary:

Somone Bowman nominated Becki Combs. Nomination declined.

For the position of Secretary, Teri Hedding nominated Karen Janssen. Nomination accepted.

No other nominations.

Karen Janssen, Secretary, by acclamation.

For the position of Vice-Chair:

Dana Craig nomination Teri Hedding. Nomination accepted.

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel nominated Becki Combs. Nomination accepted.

No other nominations.

Vice-Chair, Teri Hedding, by paper ballot.

For the position of Chair:

Teri Hedding nominated Dana Craig. Nomination accepted.

Becki Combs nominated Shelley Engstrom-Kestel. Nomination accepted.

No other nominations.

Tie vote by paper ballot. Chair Paul Menkis was contacted for his vote via videophone.

Chair, Dana Craig, by ballot.

IV. Interpreter Coordinator Report

Janet Lambert updated the Board about the IDHHC Licensure Workshops being held around the state. Several workshops were held and more are scheduled. The workshop is focused on the Deaf community.

Janet Lambert reviewed changes in operating procedure since the new Governor took office. Financial changes resulted in contractual services being reduced. As a result, the Interpreter Coordinator duties are being assumed by Janet Lambert and Tonia Bogener. Applications are typically being processed within 5 -7 business days. IDHHC is still going through the process of hiring an Interpreter Coordinator.

Outreach materials are being developed including brochures, FAQ's and Complaint form. The materials are being distributed during the IDHHC Licensure Workshops and will be posted to the website. IDHHC has started accepting complaints. However, IDHHC will not process complaints that are anonymous. Additional materials will be developed including FAQ's on medical, legal, etc... The Board was given copies of the existing materials to distribute as needed in the community.

The Board is asked to give comments to Janet and Tonia about the website content and format. IDHHC is working on website revisions. The process is taking longer as all revisions must go through CMS.

Project Coordinator, Brandie Hayes will be taking over the IDHHC Conference planning. This year's conference will include a nominal fee to cover the cost of food. The Conference registration fee is \$15 for 1 day or \$30 for both days. It was discussed that future conferences should charge differently for licensed and non-licensed/out of state interpreters. There will be a tract for DI/CDI's and interpreters. Since the next Licensure Board meeting is the day before the Conference, Board members are encouraged to stay for the Conference.

Dana Craig reported that the Centers for Independent Living are being asked to provide more information to the communities they represent about Interpreter Licensure and asked if the Power Point presentation used by IDHHC for its workshops could be provided. Janet Lambert informed the Board that a decision will be made later about making the Power Point presentation available to others.

Dana Craig asked if John Miller could present the workshop information at the next Deaf Services Coordinator meeting. That way the information can be passed on to other community leaders. Karen Janssen suggested that the information from the IDHHC website about licensure be linked to other websites. Shelley Engstrom-Kestel asked if Board members can supply names of entities who may be unaware of the law for IDHHC to contact directly. The Board continued discussion about the best ways to educate the community about interpreter licensure. The Board was reminded that specific topics must be placed on the agenda ahead of time. We cannot move and vote on topics that are not publicized in advance. Becki Combs asked about closed meetings. Janet Lambert responded that the only time we can have a closed meeting is for specific license issues. Dana Craig asked Janet Lambert and Tonia Bogener to research if the Board can move to have correspondence written to specific entities who may be unaware of the licensure law and may be in violation.

The Board recessed at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Becki Combs formally welcomed new Board member, Somone Bowman to the Board.

Janet Lambert updated the Board with information about number of licenses issued and monies collected to date. It was previously reported that IDHHC would receive \$100,000 in start up funds for interpreter licensure. It has since been learned that IDHHC will not receive an extra \$100,000 but are authorized to spend \$100,000. Total receipts from interpreter licenses is \$124,680.00. Total number of licenses issued to date is 569 and 8 applications are pending with incomplete information. Janet further reported the following breakdown of licenses issued to date:

569 licenses:

Master – 173

Advanced – 120

Intermediate – 178

Provisional – 90

13 interpreters had upgraded licenses

513 are Illinois residents, the rest from AZ, IOWA, IND, MO, OHIO, and WISC

Of the 569, 488 were previously registered/active with IDHHC

15 were previously registered, but not active

52 are new, not previously registered with IDHHC

Shelly Engstrom-Kestel asked if we have our estimates to compare with actuals. Karen Janssen will retrieve that information from old notes for the next meeting.

V. Unfinished Business

a. IDHHC Deaf Interpreter Knowledge Based Test

Janet Lambert informed the Board that June Prusak, CDI is not interested in working with the Board on the Deaf interpreter knowledge based test.

The Board discussed the purpose of the test and what it should measure in addition to validity and reliability. The difference between DI, Deaf Interpreter and CDI, Certified Deaf Interpreter was discussed. DI's need additional training and need to prove a level of competence in order to move from the Provisional to Intermediate license status. Of the 90 Provisional licenses issued, 3 are Deaf interpreters.

The Board recessed. Further discussion is tabled until the Board reconvenes.

The Board reconvened at 9:23 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2009.

Discussion of the IDHHC Knowledge Based Test resumed.

The Board discussed resources that are already available for developing a knowledge based test. DI's need to know how to work with a hearing team. It was recommended that a sub-committee be established to develop the Knowledge Based Test. It will be listed as an agenda item for the Board's next meeting; however, discussion of the test will be in closed session. The test should be 40 – 50 questions and must be available in ASL and written English. The questions should be more straightforward than the RID CDI Knowledge Based test.

Becki Combs moved to establish a sub-committee with Teri Hedding and Karen Janssen to continue development of the DI knowledge based test. Somone Bowman seconded. Discussion included what the test should cover, type of questions and current resources. The persons involved in the test development can never take the test. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding and Karen Janssen; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

Teri Hedding moved that the Board members submit some ideas for the Deaf Interpreter Knowledge Based Test to the sub-committee by the end of today (3-12-09). Karen Janssen seconded. No further

discussion. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding and Karen Janssen; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

a. Medical Definition

Janet Lambert asked if there is community feedback about medical definitions pertaining to license levels. Teri Hedding reported that she has a staff interpreter who is “Intermediate” and struggles with that in her daily work at the hospital.

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel moved that Licensure Board accepts the definitions as provided on the memo from Tonia to CAIRS dated 12/17/08 as our definition for the difference between clinical and non-clinical medical assignments. Becki Combs seconded. Discussion: Interpreter referral agencies are sending “Intermediate” interpreters to medical assignments that they may not be approved to do. The Board discussed what “Intermediate” level interpreters can and cannot do under the medical definitions proposed. Patients do not know the difference between clinical/non-clinical. The Board recommends that IDHHC set up workshops to educate interpreters and the community about the difference between clinical and non-clinical medical settings.

All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding and Karen Janssen; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed and discussed the correspondence between IDHHC legal counsel, CAIRS and others. During the discussion the Board recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m. The Board focused on the each recommendation of CAIRS contained in the February 17,2009 correspondence.

The Board also recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Becki Combs moved that legal counsel, with the feedback from the Licensure Board, draft a letter in response to CAIRS letter dated 2/17/09. Teri Hedding seconded. Discussion: CC the letter to appropriate entities and other persons, i.e. CAIRS Board members, Licensure Board members, legislators, etc. The points discussed during review of the letter will be incorporated into a letter of response to CAIRS. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding and Karen Janssen; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

b. State Interpreter Performance Test

Discussion tabled.

c. Interpreter Licensure Website

It was restated that users can use “Control-F” in order to “find” a certain interpreter on the IDHHC website. The Board provided feedback that people want to see interpreter’s specific credentials, not just the license category..Janet Lambert and Tonia Bogener disagreed with including certification information in the data base. They stated the goal is to make it easier for consumers when they look at

the data base. A question was raised about Deaf Interpreters since their certification makes it clear they are a Deaf interpreter. Without that specific information, they are in the data base like any other interpreter.

Teri Hedding moved that we leave the proficiency levels as they are on the IDHHC website. Somone Bowman seconded. No further discussion. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, and Teri Hedding; Opposed: Karen Janssen; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

Karen Janssen moved that the Board table further discussion on changes to the law regarding the roster until the next meeting. Shelley Engstrom-Kestel seconded. Legal counsel advised the Board that this motion conflicts with the previous motion. All in favor: None; Opposed: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, and Teri Hedding; Abstained: Karen Janssen. Motion fails.

Teri Hedding moved that IDHHC advocate to amend Section 95 of the law to remove “type of certification” and replace with “license and proficiency levels”. Becki Combs seconded. Discussion: Tonia Bogener cited wording in the law pertaining to the “roster” and how it is to be maintained. She also explained the data base to the Board. The law needs to be consistent with the constraints of the data base. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, and Teri Hedding; Opposed: Karen Janssen; Abstained: Shelley Engstrom-Kestel. Motion carried.

The Board discussed that the current licensure website information does not include enough information about continuing education. Becki Combs informed the Board that the Missouri Commission’s website includes information on continuing education for interpreters.

The Board recessed at 3:00 p.m.

Karen Janssen left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

The Board reconvened and Shelley Engstrom-Kestel acted as Secretary for the remainder of the meeting.

Becki Combs moved that the IDHHC staff contact MCDHH and other state commissions regarding possible Interpreter Certification System testing collaboration. Teri Hedding seconded. Discussion: MCDHH is currently looking into developing/purchasing a new test. Janet gave some history and explanation about the KQAS and how it came to be the ISAS and what happened with it in the other States that also purchased/used it. Janet also gave some information about the TX state test and the ACCI (CA). All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, and Teri Hedding; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel moved that the IDHHC staff contact ACCI (CA) to inquire about the possibility of purchasing the ACCI to be administered in IL. Teri Hedding seconded. Discussion: None. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, and Teri Hedding; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

VII. Adjournment

Becky Combs moved that the meeting be adjourned. Teri Hedding seconded. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, and Teri Hedding; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

(Signature on File)

Dana Craig, Chair

Date

(Signature on File)

Karen Janssen, Secretary

Date

APPROVED